30th January 1956]

Prayers by students in Basic Training Schools

* 3103 *Q.*—Sri K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any instruction has been issued to the Headmasters of the Basic Training Schools in the State, particularly in the Malabar district, for introducing any prayers to be recited by the students in the mornings and evenings; and

(*b*) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of such prayer or prayers on the table of the House?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No departmental instructions have been issued to the heads of Basic Training Schools in regard to the conduct of any particular prayer or prayers by the students. Under the scheme and syllabus for Basic Training Schools, however, 15 minutes are set apart both in the evening and morning for devotional duty. In almost all the basic training schools common prayers which are non-communal in character and which differ from school to school are recited at a common devotional assembly both in the mornings and in the evenings, the selections being made by the schools themselves.

(*b*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

Sri S. RAMALINGAM : கடவுள் நம்பிக்கையில்லாத உபாத்தியாயர்களும் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படுவதால், அவர்களும் அந்தப் பிரார்த்தனை செய்யவேண்டுமென்ற நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஏதாவது இருக்கிறதா ?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : அப்படி நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஒன்றும் கிடையாது. ஆனால் இதுவரையிலும் ஒருவரும் கூட்டத்தில் கலந்துக்கொள்ள முடியாது என்று சொல்லவில்லை.

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I request that a part of this prayer may be kept for invocation to 'Bharatha Bhagya Vidhatha'?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Yes, Sir. 'Vande Matharam' is one of the songs selected for being sung during prayer in many of the schools.

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : May I point out to the Hon. Minister that 'Vande Matharam' is not the one that I refer to?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : The hon. Member is perhaps referring to 'Jana Gana Mana'. Yes, the national anthem is also sung at the end.

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN : While all these prayer songs are invariably Hindu in character, are such prayers in order in functions arranged by a secular Government?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : These do not belong to particular religious denominations. These are common prayers applicable to all communities and religions.

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SRI S. RAMALINGAM : பிராத்தனைக் கூட்டங்களில கடவுள் வணக்கம் செய்யும்போதும், தேசிய கீதம் பாடும்போதும் ஒவ்வொரு கூட்டத்திலும் எப்படிப் பாடுவது என்று சரியாக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் சொல்லிக்கொடுப்ப தில்லை. வெவ்வேறு விதமாக கற்பிக்கப்படுகிறது ஆதலால் அதற்காக இந்த உபாத்தியாயர்களுக்கு பிரத்தியேகமான பயிற்சி அளிக்க முன் வருவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : தேசம், சமுதாயம், கடவுள் ஒன்று, என்ற முறையில்தான் அப்பிரார்த்தனை அமைக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Have the Government received any complaint from some of the parents of pupils who are studying in basic schools in Malabar that in some schools, the song, 'Raghupathi Raghava Raja Ram' which has got a Hindu bias, is being sung? If so, may I know whether the Government have enquired into such complaints?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It also says, 'Iswara Alla Therae Nam. So I do not think anybody can object to it simply because Raghupathi Raghava Raja Ram is also there.

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Have the Government received any information about a particular school where the headmaster declined to have the national anthem sung? There was a leading article in a leading newspaper in Malabar about that.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I do not know to what the hon. Member is exactly referring. If the matter is brought to my notice, I shall certainly look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : With the leave of the House, the question time will be extended by ten more minutes.

Construction of Bridges

* 3104 *Q.*—SRI P. G. MANICKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the proposal to construct a bridge across the stream on the Perundalaiyur-Andipalayam road (Gobichettipalayam taluk) out of the sum of Rs. 27,000 sanctioned by the Coimbatore District Board in 1952, has been dropped; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) There was no proposal to construct a bridge across the stream known as Vannanmadai on the Perundalaiyur-Andipalayam road in Gobichettipalayam taluk out of the sum of Rs. 23,750 sanctioned under the Post-war Road Development Scheme. The question of constructing a bridge over the stream has been taken up under the Community Project Scheme.